

1                               **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 61**

2            (By Senators Laird, Fanning, Beach, Boley, Edgell, D. Facemire,  
3                       K. Facemyer, Green, Helmick, Williams and Wills)

4  
5                       [Originating in the Committee on Natural Resources]

6  
7    Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance study  
8            methods for assessing the state's narrative water quality  
9            standards by utilizing the West Virginia Water Research  
10           Institute and the National Maritime Enhancement Institute at  
11           Marshall University.

12           Whereas, The West Virginia Legislature previously enacted  
13    Chapter 22 Article 11 of the 1931 Code of West Virginia as amended,  
14    the West Virginia Water Pollution Control Act, and in that  
15    enactment declared it to be "the public policy of the State of West  
16    Virginia to maintain reasonable standards of purity and quality of  
17    the water of the state consistent with (1) public health and  
18    enjoyment thereof; (2) the propagation and protection of animal,  
19    bird, fish, aquatic and plant life; and (3) the expansion of  
20    employment opportunities, maintenance and expansion of agriculture  
21    and the provision of a permanent foundation for healthy industrial  
22    development."; and

23           Whereas, Such standards have been promulgated by the West

1 Virginia Department of Environmental Protection and the Legislature  
2 and submitted to and approved by the United States Environmental  
3 Protection Agency pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act; and

4       Whereas, These environmental protections and permitting  
5 measures include narrative water quality standards codified at 47  
6 CSR 2-3; and

7       Whereas, The West Virginia Water Research Institute and the  
8 National Maritime Enhancement Institute at Marshall University are  
9 dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the natural  
10 environment through research and outreach with industry, government  
11 agencies, academia, and the public; and

12       Whereas, The West Virginia Water Research Institute has been  
13 in existence since 1967 and is the premier water research center in  
14 West Virginia and an international leader. West Virginia Water  
15 Research Institute is a program within the National Research Center  
16 for Coal & Energy located at West Virginia University; and

17       Whereas, The Legislature desires the West Virginia Water  
18 Research Institute to develop a method to assess the state's  
19 narrative water quality standards and determine whether or not  
20 streams meet the Clean Water Act's designated use requirements; and

21       Whereas, The National Maritime Enhancement Institute at  
22 Marshall University is one of nine nationally recognized maritime  
23 institutes in the United States; conducting research to improve the  
24 performance, efficiency, security and financial stability of

1 waterborne commerce, industry and transportation; and

2       Whereas, The Legislature desires The National Maritime  
3 Enhancement Institute at Marshall University to assist, through its  
4 research efforts and other available resources, in developing a  
5 method to assess the state's narrative water quality standards and  
6 determine what, if any, impact those standards will have on the  
7 state's waterborne commerce, industry and transportation;  
8 therefore, be it

9       *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

10       That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance is hereby  
11 requested to study methods for assessing the state's narrative  
12 water quality standards by utilizing the West Virginia Water  
13 Research Institute and the National Maritime Enhancement Institute  
14 at Marshall University; and, be it

15       *Further Resolved,* That the Joint Committee on Government and  
16 Finance report to the regular session of the Legislature, 2012, on  
17 its findings, conclusions and recommendations; and, be it

18       *Further Resolved,* That the expenses necessary to conduct this  
19 study, to prepare a report and to draft necessary legislation be  
20 paid from legislative appropriations to the Joint Committee on  
21 Government and Finance.